

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Masakatsu MASAKI et al.
Serial No : 09/982,035 Group Art Unit: 1734
Filed : October 17, 2001 Examiner : Koch, George R.
For : WORKPIECE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHODS

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated March 22, 2007, for which a shortened statutory period for reply has been set at three (3) months. This Amendment is being filed to expedite resolution of the above-referenced Application and to remove issues from appeal and/or adopt the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the **Claims** as pending are included beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.